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Subject:

OPERATION LARGO

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French communists control the CGT, the largest trade union federation in France with 3,500,000 members. Moreover, it is extremely well financed and is said to have the promise of substantial subsidies from the Kremlin in the present coal mine strike which it started two weeks ago and has resulted in complete stoppage of the mines. The majority of its members are non-communist but have no voice in the policies of the unions. The long-range objective is overthrow of the French Government. The immediate one is to defeat ERP, to exploit prevailing economic instability in such fashion as to discredit the French Government.

Opposed to the CGT are the Force Ouvriere with 1,500,000 members, the independent trade unions with about 1,000,000 members and the Catholic trade unions with from 600,000 to 800,000 members. These three trade union federations are generally sympathetic to each other but altogether they represent a minority of French trade unions, lack a definite program and have practically no financial resources. Moreover, Leon Jouhaux, nominal head of the Force Ouvriere, is an aged opportunist who must be pressured from below to take a stand. There are excellent militant members of the Force Ouvriere on the lowest levels.

Our objective should be to break communist control of the CGT, the greatest threat to the success of ERP in France.

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HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

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Date: 4 Nov 66

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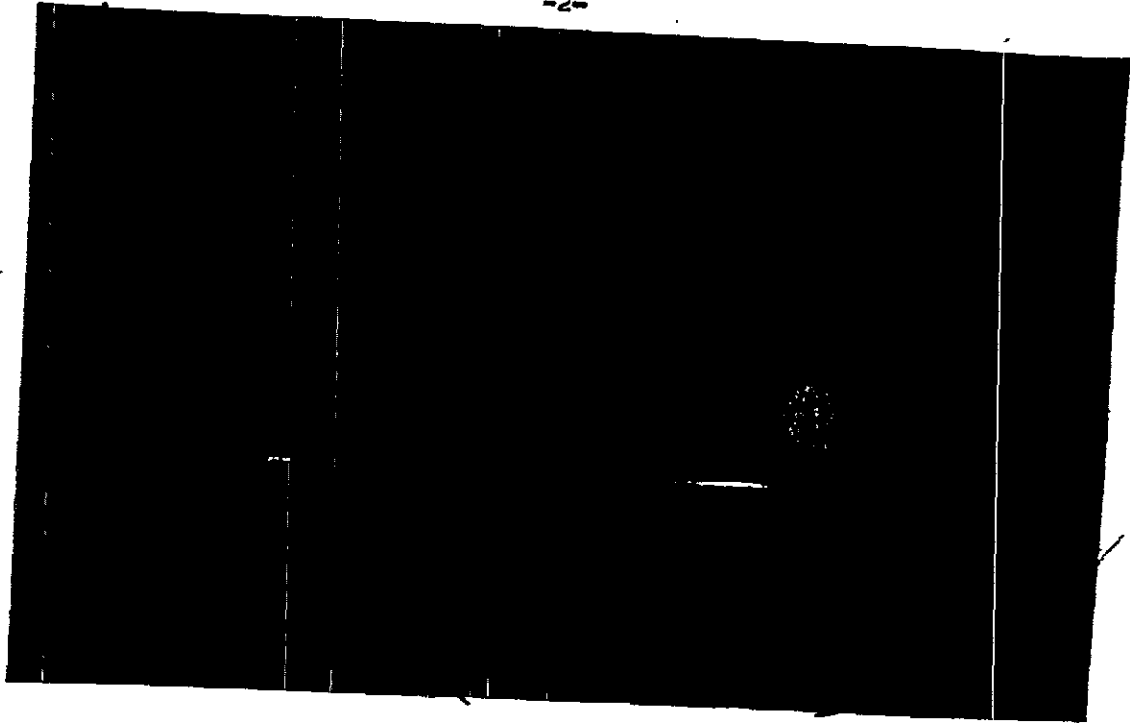
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Approved.
G F Kennedy

~~October 12, 1948~~

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